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Agri-News

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TENNESSEE'S WHEAT PRODUCTION LOWEST IN TEN YEARS

Tennessee's winter wheat production is forecast at 13.8 million bushels, down 6 percent from the May 1 forecast and 25 percent below 2001 to the lowest level since 1992. Based on a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, wheat yields are forecast at 51 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the last forecast. If realized, this would be the lowest yield since 1998 and 3 bushels below last year's yield of 54 bushels. Tennessee producers sowed 430,000 acres last fall and intend to harvest 270,000 acres for grain, down 21 percent from last year and the lowest level since 1985. The remaining 160,000 acres will be used as a cover crop or harvested for hay or silage. Dry weather during October and November of last year caused both seeding delays and emergence problems. Periods of below normal temperatures and excess moisture during April and May caused minor freeze damage and contributed to several leaf-type diseases, including glume blotch and leaf rust. The crop continues to progress at a normal pace in mostly fair to good condition. As of June 9, nearly all of the State's crop had turned color with over half of the acreage now ripe. Harvesting began on a limited basis during the first week of June with combining expected to be in full swing within the next several weeks.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.24 billion bushels, down 5 percent from the May 1 forecast and 9 percent below 2001 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 30.2 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Area for 2002 grain harvest is forecast at 30.2 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but down 4 percent from 2001. This is the smallest winter wheat area since 1917. As of June 2, heading had reached 82 percent in the 18 major States. Harvest progress was at 5 percent, ranging from none in most States to 35 percent in Texas.

Hot weather quickly ripened winter wheat fields along and near the Gulf Coast during the first half of the month. Farther north, development accelerated in the southern Corn Belt and central Great Plains even though temperatures were not favorably warm. In the eastern Corn Belt, fields entered the heading stage much later than normal, especially in Ohio. Virtually all of Montana's crop broke dormancy by midmonth, but cold weather hampered growth on the northern Great Plains during most of the month. Harvest progressed with few delays along the Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coastal Plain, while rain periodically interrupted progress in interior parts of the southern Great Plains and Mississippi Delta.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JUNE 1, 2002 WITH COMPARISONS ¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	970	800	52.0	53.0	50,440	42,400
Georgia	200	180	53.0	45.0	10,600	8,100
Kentucky	360	380	66.0	62.0	23,760	23,560
Mississippi	225	180	52.0	50.0	11,700	9,000
Missouri	760	760	54.0	51.0	41,040	38,760
North Carolina	470	470	39.0	45.0	18,330	21,150
TENNESSEE	340	270	54.0	51.0	18,360	13,770
Virginia	170	175	60.0	62.0	10,200	10,850
United States	31,295	30,174	43.5	41.0	1,361,479	1,237,671

¹ 2002 forecast, 2001 final.

